

June 18, 1959

Dr. H. K. Hartline
Rockefeller Institute
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Hartline:

I was most gratified to see your letter of June 4 upon my return from abroad. I must confess that "Biology and Psychology" had conveyed an impression of a commitment in support of man-in-space rather than basic science, and I am very pleased to see that this is wrong.

In the circumstances, I am delighted to accept your invitation to join your committee.

I am, as you suspected, still a bit short of breath. However, I would foresee spending some time this summer to prepare a studious draft of a 'position paper' on extra-terrestrial life and its exploration for consideration and adoption by the Space Science Board. This would incorporate the suggestions from Eastex and from the three sessions of Westex. Before it goes to the Board, I should like to have it reviewed by another session of Westex in September, and I hope we may have some representation there from Boston too.

The only tangible thing I might ask from (or through) you would be assurances of perhaps \$ 1000 or \$ 1500 for expenses this summer, particularly to have some help from Carl Sagan in putting together and amplifying the material. This may prove not to be entirely necessary, as Mel Calvin may be hiring him to do much the same kind of job for an advisory group ~~xxx~~ he is organizing for Bioastronautics, and from which we would get equal benefit. In any case, it would be some comfort to have a definite budget to draw from for necessary extravagances in this work. Needless to say, there could be university funds that might be borrowed for the same purpose, but even for these minor amounts I hesitate to do so for obvious reasons of principle.

I should also be pleased to receive any literature that the Board has at its disposal relating to exobiological studies. Dr. Darbyshire has sent me your memo SSB-93, and I also have some bits and pieces from the Congressional committees. I do not have any material, if there is any, on the Academy's position on such questions as the scientific value of man-in-space such as might, for example, justify press-quoted assertions that it is a major scientific objective of the present generation.

Let me thank you again for your cordial interest and support.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg